

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 01275 171023Z

12

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 DRC-01 /055 W

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R 161540Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5810

INFO AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GABORONE 1275

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELTN, BC

SUBJECT: BOTSWANA TO STUDY OWNERSHIP AND OPERATION OF
RHODESIA RAILWAYS

1. PRESIDENT KHAMA ANNOUNCED OVER THE WEEKEND GOB
DECISION UNDERTAKE STUDY ON EVENTUAL OWNERSHIP AND OPERATION
OF RHODESIA RAILWAY SYSTEM IN BOTSWANA. PRESIDENT SAID
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT HAD CREATED THE NEED FOR AN INTENDED
RAILWAY SYSTEM IN THE COUNTRY. GOB FEELS SUCH A SYSTEM
CAN BE DEVELOPED AND OPERATED BEST BY BOTSWANA RATHER THAN
BEING LEFT TO THE RHODESIANS. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE
PROPOSED STUDY WOULD INCLUDE PROCUREMENT OF ROLLING STOCK,
ORGANIZATION AND TRAINING TO INSURE SMOOTH TRANSITION AND
EFFICIENT SERVICE WHEN THE GOVERNMENT DECIDES ASSUME FULL
OWNERSHIP AND OPERATIONAL CONTROL.

2. COMMENT: GOB CONSIDERATION OF STUDY ON THE EVENTUAL
OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL OF THE RHODESIA RAILWAY SYSTEM IN
BOTSWANA WAS PROBABLY INTENSIFIED BY THE OPENING OF THE
BEITBRIDGE-RUTENGA LINE TO SOUTH AFRICA. GOB HAS BEEN
HOLDING TALKS WITH THE RHODESIANS OVER THE PAST YEAR ABOUT
THE OPERATION OF THE LINE. WE UNDERSTAND FROM BOTSWANA
SOURCES THAT THE RHODESIANS CONSIDER OWNERSHIP AND
CONTROL BY BOTSWANA TO BE INEVITABLE AND HAVE AGREED TO
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PAGE 02 GABORO 01275 171023Z

COOPERATE IN THE PROCESS.

BOLEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: RAILROADS, ROLLING STOCK
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 16 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Type: TE
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